Verona Gazette

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Fight Between Capulets and Montagues Results in 2 Deaths and Banishment

In Verona, Italy a fight broke out in the streets during the afternoon. Tybalt Capulet and Mercutio Escalus who is a relative of Prince Escalus, the authority figure of the small city, were seen dueling. Romeo Montague and Benvolio Montague, friends of Mercutio Escalus, soon tried to intervene and stop the fighting of the two men. While Romeo was holding the two apart, Tybalt Capulet lunged forward and stabbed Mercutio underneath Romeo’s arm. Mercutio Escalus died shortly afterwards from the wound. Capulet then fled the scene soon returning to fight again with Romeo Montague who then killed Tybalt and fled himself.

Prince Escalus was then called to stop the fights by nearby civilians, but it was already over when he arrived. The prince then evaluated the scene and listened to the testimonies of Benvolio Montague and Lady Capulet, and administered punishment to the only living offender, Romeo Montague. Montague was then sentenced to be banished from Verona and is to be sent to live in Mantua after he is found. Authorities ask if he is seen to be reported immediately.

The two families, the Capulets and Montagues have an apparent grudge against one another that is generations old. There have been other fights and skirmished between servants, friends, and family members of both households in the past. These brawls have even called the attention of Prince Escalus. Both Lords, Capulet and Montague, have been warned if another fight broke out in public between the two households they would be held responsible and executed as punishment for disturbing the peace. There is no word on whether they will be held responsible also or just Romeo.

Both families are vexed by the news of their relative’s and friends recent actions.

Lady Capulet, who is the aunt of Tybalt Capulet, believes it was the Montagues and Mercutio who instigated the fight. She believes Tybalt was only defending himself from attackers.

Benvolio Montague contradicts her story and told the prince that it was only Mercutio and Tybalt at the beginning and Romeo had only avenged his friend’s death when Tybalt returned. He told the prince that both Tybalt and Mercutio were instigating the fight by insulting one another. He claims that Tybalt had come looking for Romeo to duel, but Mercutio began insulting him and hinting at a fight between them instead. He also said when Romeo did make an appearance, he tried to avoid a fight with the Capulet, but only fought after Mercutio was killed.